

Case 3592***Dodecatoma* Westwood, 1849 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation by suppression of *Dodecatoma* Dufour, 1841 (Insecta, Plecoptera)**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the usage of the genus-group name *Dodecatoma* Westwood, 1849 for a group of beetles (family PHENGODIDAE or RHAGOPHTHALMIDAE) by suppressing the unused senior homonym *Dodecatoma* Dufour, 1841, which was proposed for a group of stoneflies (family PERLIDAE).

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Insecta; Coleoptera; DRILIDAE; PHENGODIDAE; RHAGOPHTHALMIDAE; *Dodecatoma*; *Dodecatoma bicolor*; beetles; stoneflies; Plecoptera; PERLIDAE; India; Nepal; Afghanistan; Pakistan; France.

1. Homonymy exists between the genus-group names *Dodecatoma* Dufour, 1841 (Insecta, Plecoptera) and *Dodecatoma* Westwood, 1849 (Insecta, Coleoptera). The senior name has generally been omitted from lists of generic names and has long been relegated to synonymy, whereas the junior name has been in use for over 150 years. In our opinion stability would best be served by suppressing the senior homonym.

2. In reviewing the plecopteran family PERLIDAE Stephens, 1836, as a part of his larger review of the anatomy and physiology of Orthoptera, Hymenoptera and Neuroptera, Dufour (1841, p. 610) proposed the genus-group name *Dodecatoma* Dufour, 1841 with one originally included species, *Perla flava* Geoffroy in Fourcroy, 1785 (p. 349) from France, which is the type species by monotypy.

3. Westwood (1849, Livraison 6, Number 16, unnumbered page), in Guérin-Méneville's *Species et iconographie générique des animaux articulés*, proposed *Dodecatoma* for the single Coleoptera species *Dodecatoma bicolor* Westwood, 1849 (Livraison 6, Number 16, unnumbered page) from 'India orientalis, Deccan' [India], which is the type species by monotypy. Dating of Westwood (1849) is from Chandler

(1999), who indicated that the 'revision' and plate of *Dodecatoma* [which was Number 16 of the full series with one unnumbered page] appeared in livraison 6 of Guérin-Méneville's *Species et iconographie générique des animaux articulés*, each livraison of which was sent to subscribers with all four 'revisions' [= treatments of genera, each with a separate plate and pages; single pages were unnumbered; multiple pages were separately numbered]. Thus, although the plate and 'revision' page of *Dodecatoma* are dated April 1843, they could not have been published before the date of the most recently dated 'revision' and associated plate of that livraison (Number 15, each of which have a printed date of January 1849).

4. After its proposal by Dufour (1841), *Dodecatoma* was considered a synonym of either *Perla* Geoffroy, 1762 (e.g. Walker, 1852), *Isopteryx* Pictet, 1841 (e.g. Albarda, 1889; Banks, 1906), or *Chloroperla* Newman, 1863 (e.g. Claassen, 1940) and dropped out of usage. No publication after 1899 could be found that treats *Dodecatoma* Dufour as a valid name, the last known one being Walker (1852).

5. Westwood's (1849) original description of *Dodecatoma* lacked a family-group attribution, but Schaum (1850) listed the genus in DRILIDES, now DRILIDAE. Both the genus and the family assignments were followed in use by Lacordaire (1857, p. 377). Subsequently, Olivier (1910), Wittmer (1944) and Bocák (2007) included *Dodecatoma* Westwood in their catalogues of RHAGOPHTHALMIDAE Olivier, 1907, DRILIDAE Blanchard, 1845, and PHENGODIDAE LeConte, 1861, respectively. Within the past 50 years, *Dodecatoma* Westwood received taxonomic attention from Wittmer (1944, 1979, 1995). Subsequent to its original description, four additional species have been assigned to this genus: *D. fuscicornis* Gorham, 1895 from India, *D. parvicornis* Wittmer, 1979 from Afghanistan and Pakistan, *D. gracilis* Wittmer, 1995 from Nepal and *D. riedeli* Wittmer, 1995 from India. No revisionary studies have been published and the name *Dodecatoma* has occurred in synopses of, or phylogenetic placements in, the families DRILIDAE (e.g. Crowson, 1955), PHENGODIDAE (e.g. Bocák, 2007), and RHAGOPHTHALMIDAE (e.g. Kawashima et al., 2010; Kundrata & Bocák, 2011). The geographic range of all described species presently includes India, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

6. Although *Dodecatoma* Dufour, 1841 has not been used as a valid name after 1899, the criteria for Article 23.9.1 are not met as there are fewer than 25 publications in the last 50 years that mention the younger *Dodecatoma* Westwood, 1849 as a valid taxon.

7. Despite the fact that publications of *Dodecatoma* Westwood are scattered and not plentiful, *Dodecatoma* has no junior synonyms and has consistently been treated in the literature as a valid genus for over 150 years. Acceptance of priority of the senior but unused homonym *Dodecatoma* Dufour, 1841 would require a new replacement name for the junior homonym *Dodecatoma* Westwood, 1849 (there are no junior synonyms from which to choose), which we feel would threaten the nomenclatural and taxonomic stability of this name in the Coleoptera.

8. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the name *Dodecatoma* Dufour, 1841 for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Dodecatoma* Westwood, 1849 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Dodecatoma bicolor* Westwood, 1849 (Insecta, Coleoptera);

- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *bicolor* Westwood, 1849 as published in the binomen *Dodecatoma bicolor* (specific name of the type species of *Dodecatoma* Westwood, 1849) (Insecta Coleoptera);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Dodecatoma* Dufour, 1841 (Insecta, Plecoptera), as suppressed in (1) above.

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).